International assistance for forest communication network in Indian forest

2089. SHRI SOM PAL DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are receiving bilateral international assistance for establishing most modem forest communication network in Indian forests ;

(b) if so, what the details and modelities thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that out of this aid, various State Governments too are allotted funds ;

(d) whether some State Govts. have submitted their demands to the Central Government for this purpose ; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) At present, Govt, is not receiving any bilateral international assistance for establishing modern forest communication network.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Environmental audit system

2090. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact th Government propose to introduce environmental audit system to assees and control industrial pollution in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) by when such system is likely to be introduced ; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to check industrial pollution in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) The Government have introduced a scheme for environmental audit under which :—

Every person earring on an industry, operation or process requiring consent under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 or the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 or both or authorisation under the Hazardous (Management and Handline) Rules 1989 shall submit an environmental audit report for the financial year ending the 31st March in the form prescribed by the Government to the concerned State Pollution Control Board on or before the 15th day of May every year starting from 1993.

(d) Environmental audit is likely to lead to substantial reduction in generation of waste and conservation of natural resources.

Dal lake area at Srinagar

2091. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dal Lake area at Srinagar has shrunk further and has become more

polluted during the last three years as reported in the Economic Times of 6th june, 1992 ;

(b) whether it also a fact that a sum of Rs. 6 crores was spent during the year 1990-91 and Rs. 14.50 crores during the year 1991-92 on the Dal Lake development ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which the Dal Lake has shrunk and has become more polluted making the dvelopment a farce ; and

(d) whether Government have made any enquiry into the alleged development of the Dal Lake and expenditure incurred in that regard ; if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TRE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Taj Mahal pollution

2092. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : SHRI ANANTRAY DEV- SHANKER DAVE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sulpher dioxide emitted by coal based industries in and around Agra have constantly polluted Taj Mahal with acid rains ;

(b) whether the marble shine of the Taj is robbed and turning yellowish ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Hyderabad based National Remote Sensing Agency ank Birla Institute of Scientific Research have concluded that Taj is constantly attacked by nitric acid which is causing corrosion of marble surface ; and

(d) what are the preventive measures being taken by Government to save the Taj ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY oF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the ambient air quality survey being carried out in and around Agra. the levels of sulphur dioxide are well within the limit while the levels of suspended particulate matter are higher than the limits prescribed. Analysis of rain water conducted by the Archeological survey of India indicated that there was no presence of acid deposition.

(b) The surface of Taj Mahal has lost its lusture and has become slightly coloured.

(c) The study conducted by the Birla Institute of Scientific Research in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad indicated that Sulphur Dioxide is the major pollutant while oxides of nitrogen can also damage the Taj Mahal.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to protect Taj Mahal from pollution include the following :

(i) A trapezium surround the Taj Mahal has been demarcated. No new polluting industry is allowed to be set up in this area.

(ii) There is a ban on the use of furnace oil and diesel generators in industries in Agra. The foundries are not permitted to operate during winter nights.

(iii) A continuous sulphur dioxide monotcring station has been maintained at the Taj Mahal from January 1981, to obtain the trend of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen concentrations in the ambient air